Shii-chan...

I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

Even if I can't tell her anymore

Shii-chan, I...

【第十話】女子中学生行方不明事件 弐

Suga-kun!!
Are you alright!?

...That pendant...
Suga-kun, what the hell happened?
Officer!
This is it for taday,huh?
It will be difficult ta any further.
The sun's already setting
The forest is dangerous at night.
We must hurry back.

A few days later
Suga-kun, are you there?
ガーン ガーン
In the end..
That girl's whereabouts are unknown, and the search is finished.
...
Ran away from home? Kidnapping? Murder?

Hm?
Is he not here?
What do you need?

The custodian isn't here.
He's been out somewhere since this morning.

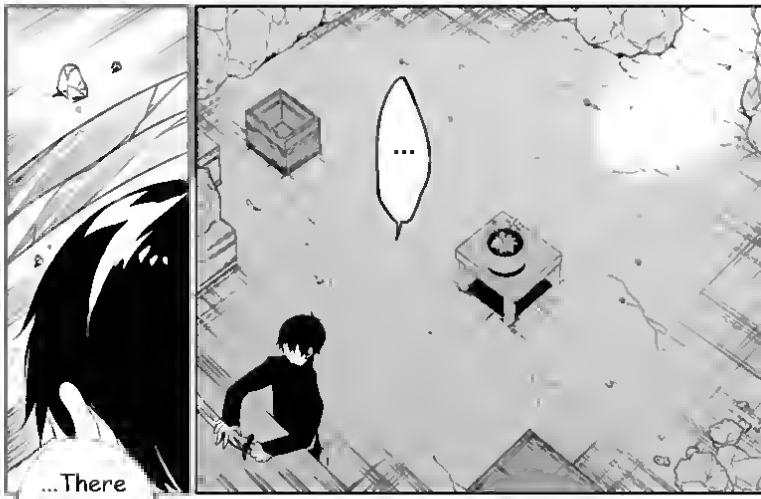
Lately he's been doing it all the time
He leaves early in the morning, and suddenly comes back at night
I see. Considering the situation, that makes sense.
Hey-

How do you know what's going on here from morning until night?
Skipping class again?
Naw naw

Because af that ane girl's case?
Well anyway, Sakuma.

That unintelligible guy has been worrying about something strange lately, hasn't he?
When I stay until late, he daesn't seem ta natice.

You get back to school!
Ehh!?


...
...There there, don't cry anymore...

You don't need to feel responsible for this

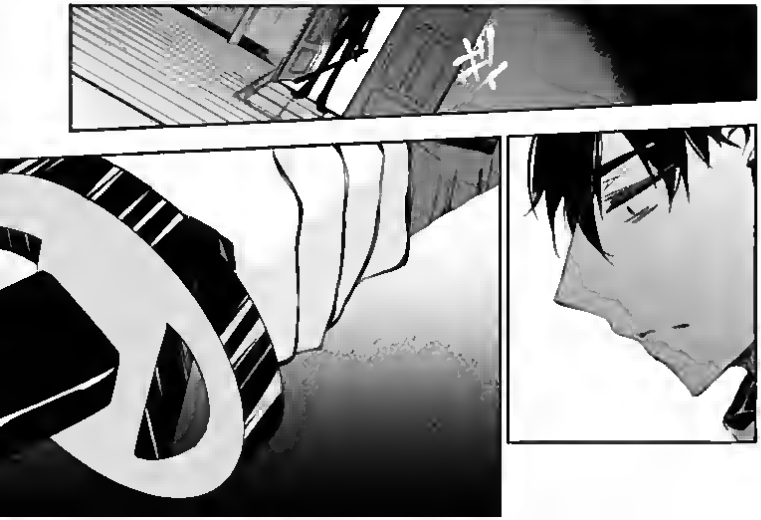
If this duty isn't fulfilled, the Kotori-Obake will know.
It's becouse of that terrible Kotori-Oboke.
The Kotori-Oboke must be stopped.
Whot do think Sugo-kun?
Even if you were going to leave, it isn't settled yet.
Would you not like to come live at this estate with me?
Say
Koutoro...
0

Is this really ok?
You'll be the forest's guardian. You'll live here, and if you don't there isn't anyone else.
I'm the one who dragged you into all of this.
After I die, this duty will become the custodian's.
You will be the next Ogami-san.

You already will always have a place in the Kamisaki family
If it's whot you want, I think you should get to live o normol life
[Please don't worry about it]...

「This is what I wished for.」

カン…
カン…
はっ



Now that I think about it lately...
.....

Eh?
C...
Custodian!?

I'm not the culprit!! Let me go, you bossy jerk!!
じたばた
Why would I be in the forest on a night like this!? Think I just felt like it!?
But...
Just don't call that busybody officer!
Explain why and don't run away
A little earlier
I guess a middle school girl went missing in the forest.
I happened to hear on the way to school.
Some guys in class said they're going to find that kid themselves.

Before they all notice because of the crowd, we'll do the test of courage we decided on.
Let's get out of helping and have some fun
That's tonight.
But
I've seen them...
You're the forest guard aren't you?
There's something in that forest.
I usually just stay away from them and I'm used to being left out
But my classmates don't know how it became that way

I want to cooperate with you.

This place is under the management of the historical archive!!
Pleose come out of the grounds immediotely!!

Doing this once again.
If you're obout to set foot in the forest, get out immediotely.
You really did call the officer, eh?
じと～
Although it seems like he was able to deal with it.
If those boys aren't coming back to my car, maybe they aren't here
...Oh
Sugo, thot thing attoched to your belt is...
!

They're coming!
Those guys are...!!
I wonder if they're Mother's children?
One of us...
They came again
They're children
They came

H-hey, Custodian, isn't this bad-
CUSTODIAN!?
come
come
You're already mine...

A Sword!?
UWAAA!!!

Y-
It's closing time.
Visiting hours are over.
Yes...
Suga-kun, Sakuma, that was a jab well done.
I'll take these guys back to the station for a scolding before they go back.
And you, using that!!

Besides, isn't it yau guys that shauld be sarry right naw?
Suga-kun's sword is just a replica.
It's permitted by the law
What's with that sword!? Yau're nat allowed to carry a real sword!!
Um...
It's dangeraus after dark.
I'm fine!
I can get back on my own!!
Sakuma why dan't yau came back with ...?

Hey, how come they're allowed to do that?
What, now you're jealous or something?
Geez, that one again...
I'll take her back home
I hate that guy!! It's just that I saw something strange!
N-no I'm not!!
But it's not like they'd believe me anyway...
...
I'm not sure what I saw.
Maybe it was one of Sakuma's ghosts. Then the weird thing started talking...!!
What was it?

S-something like that shouldn't even exist!
Just what is the Kotori Obake...?

What is it, Custodian?
...
You gonna keep following me?

I know that Just because that-
Cut it out, would you. Are you a stalker or something?
It's dangerous at night
What do I know...
Since when do you know? How much do you know?

This is just my guess, but that..
I knaw abaut as much as everyane else daes about this forest.
After that..
You're olwoys moking things out of thot stone
That stone secures against curses.
Thot Night Glowstone.

For the rest of the Custodian's life...
Surely there already isn't much else you can do.
There's something not good about that forest for sure...
But...
Up until now...
What is it you want to protect us from!?

D-don't get it wrong or onything! It's not like I've been worried about you or onything!
Suga-kun

I swore it
On that day

Even if...
No matter what I must sacrifice...

I'll always
Protect Shii-chan...